AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amendments:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) A method of detecting extracellular RNA ~~from an apoptotic body~~ present in a bodily fluid that is pleural effusion from a human, the method comprising the steps of:

    a) extracting, separating, isolating, or purifying extracellular RNA from an apoptotic body from a bodily fluid that is pleural effusion from a human;

    b) labeling said extracellular RNA ~~from the apoptotic body~~, or cDNA derived therefrom, or its amplified product using a labeled primer or probe specific to said RNA, or cDNA derived therefrom~~, from the apoptotic body~~; and

    c) detecting the labeled RNA or cDNA ~~from the apoptotic body~~ thereby.

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11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the primer or probe is conjugated with a label that is a fluorescent, radioisotope, biotin, or chromophore moiety and the primer or probe is detected thereby.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the apoptotic body in step (a) is disrupted by mechanical, ultrasound, microwave, or chemical means prior to labeling in step (b).

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the RNA is extracted from the apoptotic body and amplified, or its cDNA prepared therefrom is amplified, qualitatively or quantitatively prior to labeling and detection of the amplified product.

15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein the RNA is extracted from the apoptotic body and hybridized.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein the primer or probe is attached to a solid substrate.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the solid substrate is a bead or particle.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the solid substrate is a bioelectric interface.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein detection of a labeled product is performed by gel electrophoresis, capillary electrophoresis, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, fluorescent-labeled probe, radioisotope-labeled probe, chromogenically-labeled probe, laser-induced fluorescence detection, Western blot

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analysis, Northern blot analysis, Southern blot analysis, electrochemiluminescence, reverse dot blot detection, high-performance chromatography, spectroscopy, mass spectrometry, magnetic resonance spectrometry, flow cytometry, laser scanning cytometry, or detection at a bioelectrical interface.

Claims 24-36. (Cancelled)

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